



NSF DAY SPEAKERS
From NSF
September 23, 2016



Cheryl Eavey

SBE-Social Behavioral and Economic Sciences
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Cheryl L. Eavey is program director of the Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics (MMS) program in the Division of Social and Economic Sciences where she has been since 1993. She has been involved in a number of NSF activities overall, including most recently, the NSF-Census Research Network, Software Infrastructure for Sustained Innovation (SI2), and Data Infrastructure Building Blocks (DIBBs). She coordinated the management of the SBE large-scale projects on Decision Making Under Uncertainty and chaired NSF's Art of Science Project from 2001 to 2010. Cheryl earned a B.S. in mathematics and political science from Valparaiso University in Indiana and an M.A. and Ph.D. in political science from Michigan State. She has served on the faculty of the political science departments at Florida State, the Business School at Washington University in St. Louis, and the U.S. Business School in Prague (Czech Republic).



Chuck Eastabrook

ISE – International Science and Engineering
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Chuck Eastabrook is a program manager responsible for NSF interaction with Germany, Austria, Brazil and Panama. He also helps manage the International Research Experiences for Students (IRES) and Partnerships for International Research and Education (PIRE) programs. Prior to that, he was in the Earth Sciences Division at NSF where he was a program manager for EarthScope. From 2001 to 2010, he helped build the seismic monitoring network of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization in Vienna, Austria. From 1992 to 1999, he was a research scientist at the GeoForschungsZentrum in Potsdam, Germany. At the GFZ, his work was on the nature of the Earth's Upper Mantle. He received his Ph.D. in Seismology/Geophysics from Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University.



Bill Eggleston

BIO—Biological Sciences
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Bill Eggleston is a rotating program director in the Genetic Mechanism Cluster in the Division of Molecular and Cellular Bioscience (MCB). He has been on the faculty of Virginia Commonwealth University since 1993 where his laboratory studies transposable genetic elements, homologous recombination, DNA repair, and epigenetics using corn as a model system. He received a Ph.D. in Genetics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a B.S. in Biology from Duke University.



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Sonia Esperanca

GEO – Geosciences
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Sonia Esperanca has been a program director at NSF for almost 20 years, first as a rotator and then permanently. She has served as the GEO representative for a number of cross-directorate activities and committees, including CAREER and ADVANCE. She was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and holds a B.A. in Geology from Rice University, a M.Sc. in Earth Sciences from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and a Ph.D. in Geology from Arizona State University. She has held academic appointments in the U.S. and Australia. Her research interests are in the area of isotope geochemistry applied to volcanic rocks and mantle materials.



Rebecca Kruse

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Rebecca Kruse serves as program manager for the Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers (ITEST), Discovery Research PreK-12 (DRK-12), STEM+Computing Partnerships (STEM+C), and Promoting Research & Innovation in Methodologies for Evaluation (PRIME) programs. She also manages NSF's participation in the interagency Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program and supports EHR's program evaluation and monitoring activities. Her prior work included development, research, and evaluation of projects and programs that support STEM education across age groups, learning settings, and community contexts. Recent positions include serving as evaluation director for the Army Educational Outreach Program Cooperative Agreement, led by Virginia Tech, and Science Educator at Biological Sciences Curriculum Study.



Jeremy Leffler

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Jeremy Leffler is the outreach specialist in BFA's Policy Office. He is primarily responsible for the development and implementation of communications strategies that inform the research community and NSF staff about NSF proposal and award policies and procedures. Jeremy is responsible for directing the biannual NSF Grants Conference, coordinating NSF participation in major professional conferences for research administrators, and leading science and engineering research and education outreach programs to institutions historically underserved in the federal funding arena.



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Andrew J. Lovinger

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Andy Lovinger is program director in charge of the polymers program. He has been at NSF for 20 years, where he also served as senior staff scientist in the Division of Materials Research and has been involved in many NSF initiatives and cross-NSF activities. Prior to NSF he spent 19 years as a researcher at Bell Laboratories, 10 of which as head of the polymer research department. Lovinger's research has been recognized by the top polymer prizes of the American Chemical Society and the American Physical Society. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He holds BS, MS, and doctoral degrees in chemical engineering and applied chemistry from Columbia University.



Susan Mason

OLPA – Director's Office of Legislative and Public Affairs
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Susan Mason joined the National Science Foundation as a legislative specialist in 1990, rising to become head of External Affairs in 2000. Among her other achievements, she was director of Congressional relations at the National Archives & Records Administration, Congressional relations specialist at the Civil Aeronautics Board, and early in her career, she produced and directed a monthly, two-hour, live radio program, organized major concerts, and arranged station promotions and contests for KSON AM & FM in La Mesa, CA. As head of External Affairs for NSF, Susan audits and plans strategic communications, as well as develops/produces media programs, media relations initiatives, and communication training programs.



Carole Read

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Carole Read has been at NSF for five years, first a program officer in the Engineering Research Center (ERC) Program. She continues to manage an ERC researching nanotechnology enabled water treatment. Prior to NSF she served as a technology development manager in the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in the Hydrogen and Fuel Cells program (now the Fuel Cell Technologies Office). She also has industrial experience at then Arthur D. Little, Cambridge MA in chemical and energy industry consulting with expertise in technology assessment, as well as in the petrochemical industry in process development. She holds a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the University of Delaware and a business management certificate from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.



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Uma Venkateswaran

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Uma Venkateswaran has been a program officer at NSF for over 10 years—initially in the Division of Materials Research and since 2009, in the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). She manages Research Infrastructure Improvement, co-funding and other activities in EPSCoR and is a member of the CAREER Coordinating Committee. Uma received her Ph.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia and had worked at the Max-Planck Institute and the University of Buffalo. Before coming to NSF, she was a professor of physics at Oakland University in Michigan for over 15 years. Her research area is optical spectroscopy.



Ken Whang

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Ken Whang has been a program officer in the Division of Information and Intelligent Systems since 2003, where he serves as a program officer for Collaborative Research in Computational Neuroscience and the Robust Intelligence program. He has previously served as a program officer for Cyber-enabled Discovery and Innovation, a program on computational sustainability research called CyberSEES, and an activity on Biological and Computing Shared Principles. In 2009-10 he served as an NSF representative in India. Prior to coming to NSF, Ken had positions at the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the U.S. Senate, and the University of Minnesota.



Lisa-Joy Zgorski

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Lisa-Joy Zgorski is a public affairs specialist and NSF Days lead. Since joining NSF in 2007, she has worked on behalf of offices and directorates throughout the foundation and the National Science Board. Her beats have included NSF's International office, SBE, CISE, Physics and Astronomy. Lisa-Joy served as a legislative aide for U.S. Rep. Barbara Kennelly (CT); press secretary for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and (then-gubernatorial candidate) Gov. Dan Malloy of Connecticut, and as a public affairs specialist in the press offices of U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, the Office of Management and Budget and The Century Foundation. She holds an M.P.P. from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government; an A.B. from Mount Holyoke College; and certificates in policy studies from Dartmouth College and the Charles University Law Faculty in Prague.



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Sandra F. DeLauder

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Saundra DeLauder earned a Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry from Howard University. A Kodak Fellowship funded her graduate research appointment at the Center for Advanced Research in Biotechnology, Rockville, MD. She was an American Society for Engineering Education postdoctoral and faculty fellow at the Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, DC. Additional research was conducted through the Summers of Discovery program in the Laboratory of Structural Biology at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Research Triangle Park, NC. Prior to her arrival at DESU, she spent almost 17 years at North Carolina Central University, first as a member of the Chemistry faculty and next in several leadership capacities including as interim dean for the College of Science and Technology, and School of Graduate Studies and Research; and special assistant to the vice chancellor for research. She served as the campus PI for the NC Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (NCLSAMP) Program, and Co-PI for the Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) and HBCU-UP grant programs; all funded through NSF. Her research interests include hair and fiber analysis, environmental studies, and educational research specifically addressing strategies to broaden participation for under-represented minorities in STEM.



Clytrice Austin-Watson

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Clytrice Watson received her B.S. in Biology from Norfolk State University, Masters Degree from Delaware State University and Ph.D. from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. She also completed a certificate of Academic Leadership via the **OURS** (Opportunities for Under Represented Scholars) graduate certificate program at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. She is committed to serving her community as she currently serves on the Delaware Commission for Forensic Science, the board of Directors of Delaware-Bio and participates in educational outreach programs across and outside of the state. Her personal commitment to student mentoring and academic success stems from her personal experiences of having excellent mentors throughout her academic and professional career.